**JESUS IS…!**

**Colossians 1:15-20**

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**INTRODUCTION**

As we mentioned last Sunday, Colossians is one of Paul’s four prison letters, written from Rome around A.D. 60-65. Although Acts does not mention a Pauline visit to Colosse, he passed nearby on his third missionary journey and must have had some contact with the church there. Thus, he writes this letter to encourage the Christians living there. Here in the first chapter, Paul uses some powerful expressions to identify Jesus in terms of His nature, His position, and His symbolic role. Let us see what Paul has to say that might encourage his readers and us today.

1. **HIS NATURE: JESUS IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD (vv. 15-17).**
2. First in importance of all creation, He **created** all things & **preceded** all things.
3. He is the **source** of all power and authority.
4. He sustains, or **holds** **together**, all of creation.

*Being in the image of God, Jesus is pictured here as being one with God in the creation of all that exists and keeping all of this creation standing in its place rather than flying apart. In other words, without Christ, our body’s molecules would not stick together.*

1. **HIS POSITION: JESUS IS THE HEAD OF THE BODY, THE CHURCH (v. 18).**
2. He is the Head, not the various **pastors**.
3. He is the Head, not the **elders** or **deacons**.
4. He is the Head, not the **members** of the church.

*The Church is compared to Jesus’ physical body. The head controls the normal body, not any other part of that body. If some other part controls the head, the body is dysfunctional and cannot function normally. Jesus is the Head; we are the body.*

1. **HIS SYMBOLIC ROLE: JESUS IS THE FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD (v. 18).**
2. He has supremacy (preeminence, priority, first place in rank) over **all** **things**. *All others raised from the dead had to die again, but not Jesus.*
3. He demonstrates the very fullness of God—i.e., **God** in the **flesh**.
4. He reconciles all things to God, thus bringing **peace** through His shed blood.

*Jesus is God in the flesh and has priority over all of God’s creation. He brings peace to the creation by offering Himself on the cross for the sins of the world. “Firstborn” symbolizes that others will be resurrected—including you and me and all other believers.*

**CONCLUSION**

Paul reminds the Colossians that Jesus is…! Jesus is all of these things and more. However, these serve as the basis for our **faith** in Him (because of His nature), our **obedience** to Him (as Head of the Church), and our **future** **hope** (because of His resurrection). Jesus is…! Have you placed your faith in Him? Do you allow Him to dictate to you concerning the direction of the church and its ministries? Do you have confidence in your future in Heaven? All of these things are related to Jesus Christ. Trust Him! Follow Him! Love Him! Tell others about Him! Everything is all about Jesus!

“There is none like You. No one else can touch my heart like You do.

I could search for all eternity long and find there is none like You.

Your mercy flows like a river wide and healing comes from Your hands;

Suffering children are safe in Your arms; there is none like You.

There is none like You. No one else can touch my heart like You do.

I could search for all eternity long and find there is none like You.”